

TAIWAN'S AGRICULTURAL TRADE  
GOODWILL MISSION

## HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Republic of China, Taiwan, has sent an Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission to Capitol Hill and there will be a signing ceremony between the Mission and its American grain suppliers on Wednesday, September 14, 2005, at 9 a.m. in the Mansfield Room of the Capitol Building.

It is also my understanding that Taiwan's Goodwill Mission will sign letters of intent to purchase 14.5 million metric tons, equivalent to 559 million bushels, of U.S. wheat, soybeans and corn in 2006 and 2007. The mission's tannery group will also sign a statement with American suppliers to buy up to 6 million pieces of "wet salted hide" and "wet blue hide" for years 2006 and 2007. The total value of all the purchases will amount to \$3.1 billion.

I welcome Taiwan's Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission to Capitol Hill. Two years ago, the same Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission came to the Hill and signed letters of intent agreeing to purchase \$2.87 billion for the years 2004 and 2005. The last mission planned to buy 15.1 metric tons, approximately 581 bushels, of wheat, soybeans and corns and 4 million pieces of hide. As of June 2005, Taiwan had already purchased 10.5 metric tons, equivalent to 404 million bushels, of U.S. grain. And in 2004, Taiwan purchased an additional 3 million pieces of U.S. hide in 2004. Given Taiwan's long history as an excellent customer for U.S. agricultural products, it is reasonable to expect Taiwan to fulfill all its agreed-upon commitments and more.

Taiwan has had a very strong trade relations with our Nation. Year after year, Taiwan has imported U.S. cattle hides, U.S. hog skins, soybean, corn and wheat and other agricultural products, amounting to billions of dollars for American producers. We hope this trend will continue in the future as our agricultural exports to Taiwan greatly benefit our grain exporters and farmers.

I join my colleagues in welcoming members of Taiwan's Agricultural Trade Goodwill to Capitol Hill and I wish Dr. Chen Hsi-Huang, Mr. Kuo Hsin-Hong and Mr. Wang Tsong-ming, heads of The Soybean and Corn Delegation, The Wheat Delegation and The Hide Delegation, and members of the delegation a pleasant journey as they travel to Iowa, Ohio, Missouri, Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, Kansas, and Texas to meet with state and local officials and suppliers.

We also hope they will return to Capitol Hill again next year.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2005, I was unavoidably detained

and missed rollcall votes numbered 456 and 457. Rollcall vote 456 was on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3650, a bill to allow United States Courts to conduct business during emergency conditions, and for other purposes. Rollcall vote 457 was on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3169, a bill to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for students who are eligible for Pell Grants who are adversely affected by a natural disaster.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 456 and 457.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-  
PROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IM-  
MEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM  
THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRI-  
CANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

## HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 2, 2005*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3645, which will provide an initial installment of desperately needed supplemental funding for disaster relief efforts in the Gulf Coast region. Hurricane Katrina has left untold devastation and loss in its wake, and it is critical that we do everything we can to get assistance to those who need it without delay.

I have received dozens of calls this week from Rhode Islanders who are angry and frustrated by the horrific images they are seeing from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. They are right to be outraged by the utter failure of our government to ensure the prompt evacuation and rescue of stranded residents or to deliver needed medical supplies, food and clean drinking water to the tens of thousands of people whose very survival depends on it.

The Federal reaction to this crisis has been slow and ill-coordinated, which is particularly troubling in light of the advance notice and warning systems we are able to rely upon in hurricane and other natural disaster situations. I am deeply concerned not only about the response to this disaster, but about how much worse it could have been had we been given no warning, as in the case of a terrorist attack.

Four years after September 11th and tens of billions of dollars later, we should have been better prepared for this disaster. We have received countless assurances from the Administration that this Nation is ready and equipped to keep our citizens safe, but our citizens have just come face to face with the truth, and it tells a shockingly different story.

In the weeks and months to come, there will be many, many tough questions to be answered on the part of Federal officials and others. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I look forward to working with my colleagues to get to the bottom of this national failure as we carefully examine what went wrong, how the region and Federal Government could have been better prepared, and what must be done to ensure this kind of situation is never repeated. We must look at the

organization of FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, funding for disaster response, coordination between domestic agencies and the military, interoperable communications, public health preparedness, critical infrastructure protection and much more.

However, as the crisis continues, it is important that we focus on the critical days ahead and concentrate our efforts on ensuring that we are doing everything in our power from this point forward. Hundreds of thousands of displaced residents, many of whom have lost everything, are looking to us for help, and we can not let them down. Today's supplemental appropriation will provide an infusion of funding to allow immediate needs to be met, and my colleagues and I will be ready to provide whatever additional assistance may become necessary as the response progresses.

Today, my thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have lost loved ones, had their homes and livelihoods destroyed, and who continue to suffer in terrible conditions, not knowing what the future may hold. I also want to express my deepest appreciation to those who are working to offer whatever assistance they can. Thousands of National Guard troops, local first responders, relief workers and others are putting their lives on hold to help, and we should all do whatever we can to aid in those efforts as well.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3645.

RETIREMENT OF CHIEF JOHN  
WALSH

## HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 8, 2005*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and service of Willimantic Fire Department Chief John Walsh, who has served the Connecticut community of Willimantic for more than two decades. He has served as a firefighter for more than 50 years.

Chief Walsh began his career as a volunteer firefighter in 1954. In January 1960 he joined the Hartford Fire Department where he demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and ability. In 1968 he was promoted to Lieutenant and in 1980 he achieved the rank of Captain. In December 1983 he became Chief of the Willimantic Fire Department.

His work on behalf of his fellow firefighters extended beyond the community. In 1988 and 1989 he was President of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs and he is a member of the New England Fire Chiefs and the National Fire Protection Association.

Firefighters are on call seven days a week, 12 months a year. There are no holidays for firefighters. Tragedy never takes a holiday and when it strikes a community, firefighters are among the first to respond.

Individuals are not recognized for what they have taken but for what they have given. Chief John Walsh's family, colleagues and friends honor him for what he has given to his community. I am proud to add my voice to theirs. Through his commitment and character he has made Willimantic a better place in which to live, work and raise a family.

Thank you, Chief Walsh, for your service.